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SUBJECT: MONTENEGRO: SWITZERLAND RECOGNIZES INDEPENDENCE

1.(U) In a June 9 Federal Council (cabinet) meeting, Switzerland officially recognized the state of Montenegro and instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to establish full diplomatic and consular relations. According to DFA desk officer Stefan Kloetzli, Switzerland is the second nation (after Iceland) to recognize Montenegro's independence. Switzerland intends to continue handling its bilateral relations out of Belgrade.

2.(U) Following is the press release regarding the Federal Council's decision:

Montenegro: Recognition and establishment of diplomatic relations

9 June 2006

At today's meeting, the Federal Council decided to recognise the state of Montenegro in international law and to take steps to establish diplomatic and consular relations. Federal Councilor Micheline Calmy-Rey will inform the Montenegrin authorities of this decision in writing.

Switzerland congratulates the new state on its independence and hopes that this step will promote political stability and the further European integration of the entire region.

On 3 June 2006, Montenegro declared its independence, after 55.5% of voters opted for independence. Until independence, Montenegro was a member republic of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro, which in turn was formerly part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

End text of press release.
Urban